

# PENNY PRESS



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USS ABRAHAM

LINCOLN (CVN 72)

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## Abe Sailor appears on national TV

### Montel Williams reunites Abraham Lincoln Hospital Corpsman with wife on show

By JOSH Ron Kuzlik  
NAVINFO East

When USS Abraham Lincoln deployed for an Arabian Gulf cruise in August of last year, Navy wife Patti Stokes-Elam didn't expect to see her husband, Hospital Corpsman First Class Michael Elam until mid-February when the ship returned to its homeport in Everett, Wash.

As it turned out, Mrs. Elam didn't have to wait until February. She was selected by the producers of "The Montel Williams Show" to talk to her husband via a satellite video teleconference. What she didn't know was, her husband had been flown in from the Arabian Gulf to appear in person on the show. So, as she was talking to her husband "via satellite"

(while he was actually in the next studio), Naval Academy graduate and former Navy cryptological officer-turned talk show host Montel Williams invited Petty Officer Elam on stage.

What followed was a very emotional reunion, as both Patti and Michael embraced and their eyes filled with tears. The hardship that every Navy couple endures when faced with deployment was compounded by a medical diagnosis made just days before the ship sailed.

Two days before Abraham Lincoln departed its homeport, Patti discovered a lump in her breast. She immediately went to the hospital. A biopsy revealed that the disease had spread through her entire breast, infecting 20 of her 28 lymph



U.S. Navy Photo by JOSH Ron Kuzlik

HM1 Michael Elam, daughter Karin, and wife Patti following their reunion on "The Montel Williams Show."

nodes. Because of this, she had surgery. Patti's oncologist at Madigan Army (See Elam Pg. 8)

## Abe sheds excess ammo

By SN Ryan Hicks  
Deck Department

During three days of vertical and connected replenishment operations, Deck, HS-4 Black Knights, and Weapons Department worked together to offload Abraham Lincoln's remaining ammunition. Weapons staged the hangar bays and moved and organized the pallets, while Deck and HS-4 transferred the pallets to USNS Shasta, the

receiving ship.

In the end, Deck moved more than 1,200 pallets and HS-4, approximately 1,000. Working together, the three departments transferred more than 3.5 million pounds of ordnance.

"The entire Weapons department, G-1 through G-5, was involved in the offload," said AO1 Bryan Ulicney. "We spent the day prior to the offload moving the majority of

the ordnance from the 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> decks to the hanger bay."

"It was really a team effort," said AOC Lamberto Loyola of G-3. "We never needed to unpack much of our ordnance but what we did unpack, we had to reseal and repalletize before the offload. We had to band it according to military regulations. That

(See Ammo Pg. 7)



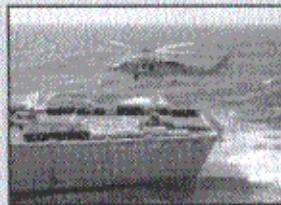
Photo by JO1(SW) David Rush

One of Abe's LSEs guides a HH-60H during this week's ammo offload.



VFA-25 picks SOY

Pg. 3



Ammo offload

Pgs. 4-5

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